

Cynthia T. Brown  
Chief, Section of Administration  
Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20423

EP 705

Dear Ms. Brown:

230066

I am writing to urge the Surface Transportation Board to make a finding that there is a profound lack of rail-to-rail competition in the national rail system. The STB should change its policies to enable increased rail-to-rail competition.

Currently, anti-competitive practices within the railroad industry have driven costs up on my monthly electric bill. That's not right and the STB can help fix it. In the last 12 months, my electric rates went up 65%. I am on Soc. Sec. disability so have limited income. The only place to get the money, was, to cut back on groceries. I have one meal a day now and hope to not have to cut back to one very two days.

Rural-based business and agriculture rely on affordable electricity. Increased rail competition will help maintain affordable electric rates in rural America and will improve economic opportunities for rural communities like mine.

Increased rail competition will also increase the revenues of American agriculture by improving the ability of producers and manufacturers to ship their products affordably, communities.

The Surface Transportation Board has an opportunity to make a positive difference and help improve our economy. The comments that the STB has received include numerous examples of the lack of adequate competition in the railroad industry. I hope the STB will find that there is inadequate competition in the railroad industry and will then revise their policies to enhance rail-to-rail competition in order to help preserve affordable electricity and good jobs throughout America.

Thank you.

Robert Morava  
Perennial Public Power District

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JUN 16 2011

Robert Morava  
104 S Empire Avenue  
Exeter, NE 68351 68351  
ecap2020@hotmail.com

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